

Security summit held

by Rachel Newton

A Chemical Material Agency (CMA) security summit hosted at Pine Bluff Arsenal Jan. 11-13 brought together CMA security and surety personnel from across the nation. The purpose of the summit was to establish a network amongst CMA security and surety personnel, enhance communication across CMA and to talk about lessons learned, according to Lt. Col. Searless Hathaway, deputy director of Law Enforcement and Security.

"Hiring DOD (Department of Defense) guards was the biggest focus of the summit," said Hathaway. "This was the first time this many chemical, surety and security personnel were all together in one place. We were dealing mainly with AR 190-59 (Chemical Agent Security Program). We actually got a chance to go in and update the regulations to be more in sync with today's environment."

The summit, held at Clara Barton Center, opened with an address by Col. Peter Cooper, acting director of operations for CMA.

"I think this summit is something that is long overdue," said Col. Tom Woloszyn, Arsenal commander. "The fact that we have similar meetings with logistics and the chemical teams makes it necessary. It is a forum for sharing similar tasks across CMA."

Other highlights of the summit included a demonstration of a parts washer/weapon cleaning system by Inland Technology, tours of production and a smoke demonstration, and presentations on the CMA Surety Management Program and demil plant lockdown.

"The opportunity to bring experts together can only benefit each organization as well as headquarters now as well as in the future," said Sgt. Maj. Jerry Curtiss. "It is a win-win for each organization."

Some significant things that came out of the summit in regards to the Arsenal were the utilization of new equipment for the guard force, said Hathaway. "We also agreed on an across the board pay grade for incoming guards. Different areas had guards coming in at a different pay grade. CMA wants all of us to be on the same grade. This is going to help PBA guards because a lot of our guard force will be promoted."

Hathaway said that the summit would also help the Arsenal prepare for the Department of the Army Inspector General (DAIG) inspections later this year.

The Arsenal Internal Review and Audit Compliance (IRAC) office participated in the summit, its first, according to information from Chuck Lusk, IRAC office chief.

"Key information was shared relative to surety and security regulatory compliance," said Lusk in a weekly significant events statement. "The experience prepared the IRAC staff to better serve the Directorate of Law Enforcement and Security in preparation for future DAIG, Surety Management Reviews (SMR) and Physical Security Survey-Surety (PSS-S) inspections. One of the focal points involved providing comments to assist in updating AR 190-59 to fit today's surety/security environment."

Everyone who attended the summit said that it was excellent and that the briefings were good and informative. "Even people who have been doing this for years learned something," Hathaway said. "Everyone got something out of it."